REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 26 to 29, all other claims having been cancelled.

All of the claims have been rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as being based upon a non-enabling disclosure. Apparently, the Examiner was interpreting the term "comprising" to be open to other peptides or amino acids. The term "comprising" has been changed to "having" so that it is deemed that the claims are limited to the specific oligonucleotides recited in the claims.

All of the claims were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as being drawn to new matter in the expression "absent" since, in the Examiner's opinion, this was not set forth in the specification as filed.

Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds of rejection since the amended claims now replace the term "absent" with the term "suppressed" which is clearly supported in the specification as filed. By "suppressed", it is meant that Y can be absent from the claims and it is believed that the claims are now

definite. The term "stringent" has been deleted from claim 29 to obviate the Examiner's objection thereto and claims 30 to 32 have been cancelled to obviate the Examiner's rejection thereto. Therefore, the amended claims are believed to properly define the invention and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is requested.

Claims 26 to 28 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by the Croce et al patent which, according to the Examiner, teaches SEQ ID No: 1 with a single stranded oligonucleotide OY comprising 9 to 42 nucleotides of the sequence Y_1-Y_2-Y_3-Y_4-Y_5 wherein Y_1 is absent, Y_2 is a trinucleotide which enclodes for Gly, Y_3 is a nucleotide coding for Arg and Y_5 is a nucleotide sequence, Y_6-Y_7-Y_8-Y_9, wherein Y_6 is a trinucleotide which codes for Ser, Y_7 is a trinucleotide which codes for Ala, Y_8 is a trinucleotide which codes for Glu and Y_9 is absent.

Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection since the Croce et al patent in no way anticipates the present invention by means of SEQ ID No: 1 of the reference. The present claim is drawn to oligonucleotide having 9 to 42 nucleotides and the SEQ ID No: 1 of Croce et al contains 14,255 nucleotides and it is excluded from the present claims which no longer uses the term "comprising"

but uses the word "having 942 nucleotides". Moreover, the Croce et reference relates to cDNA sequence of the All-1 gene which has no relationship to Applicants' invention. Therefore, the reference neither anticipates nor renders obvious Applicants' claimed nucleotides and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

Claims 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Draper and claim 30 was rejected as being obvious over the Draper patent taken in view of the Ohlmeyer et al reference. The Examiner states that Draper teaches sequences SEQ ID No: 279 as a single stranded oligonucleotide OZ comprising 15 to 39 nucleotides and hybridizes under milder stringent conditions with a consensus single characteristic of amidated polypeptide hormones.

Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds of rejection since claim 30 has been cancelled and obviates the rejections thereto. Claim 29 no longer anticipates the same since SEQ ID No: 1 of Draper has been excluded by means of a proviso. The aim of Draper is really different from Applicants' invention since Draper wishes to obtain RNA molecules that cleave RNA of the hepatitis C virus (HCV) whereas Applicants' invention is intended to identify precursors of amidated polypeptide hormones. Therefore, the reference does not anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly point out Applicants' patentable contribution and favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Muserlian, Lucas and Mercanti

Charles A. Muserlian, 19,683
Attorney for Applicants
Tel. # (212) 661-8000

CAM:ds
Enclosures